



THE ASSESSMENT FILES

COUNTY ASSESSORS ASSOCIATION OF OKLAHOMA
SEPTEMBER 2009 VOLUME 10

Message from the President....

Greetings Everyone:

I hope everyone has been well this month. Things here in the northwest are really beautiful for this time of year. This has to be one of the greenest summers and now fall, that I can remember. I am still mowing my yard each week. I have been trying to wean my lawn off of water, but the Lord keeps on watering.

Everyone should be making their plans to attend the Annual Assessor's Conference at the end of October. The conference will be October 28 – 30 at the Biltmore in OKC. I received my registration from Monica last week, so hopefully you have already returned the completed form to her. Remember, we are not collecting individual conference registration dues, but instead collect annual dues for the Assessor's Association once a year. Last I checked with Monica there were only a couple of counties that had not paid their annual dues.

Everything is on track for the conference. We are working on the PowerPoint presentation for the "Due Process" program. I have received confirmation from several Governor and Lt. Governor candidates who plan on speaking at the conference. State Treasurer Scott Meacham and State Auditor Steve Burrage will speak at the opening ceremony. Everyone seemed very willing to speak to our group and most expressed how important they feel county government and the county assessors are to the state.

We are inviting the county clerks to the session so make sure that your clerk knows about the presentation. Tammy Reece, Kay County Clerk, and County Clerk's Association President and I have been in contact and she will send a notification to all the clerks. We need to make sure that everyone involved in the protest process is on the same page, so communication is the key.

Earlier this month I attended the International Association of Assessing Officers (IAAO) annual conference in Louisville, KY. In my opinion this is the best educational conference in the nation for assessment professionals. I always pick up so many new ideas from other jurisdiction and vendors from around the county and world. One of the best new ideas I picked up was from a company that has developed a program to search for UCC filings around the county. We sat thru a webinar this week on their product and plan to purchase a subscription. This will be a great way for our office to conduct another level of auditing on personal property and help insure that our records are correct. I will keep you posted on the progress here in Garfield County. Give me a call if you want more information.

Darron Fredrickson, Chesapeake Energy and an Associate Member of the Assessor's Association gave a presentation at the conference on the videos they created pertaining to the pipeline industry. Darron did great job and everyone in attendance really enjoyed his presentation.

If you need anything, let me know at lwade@garfieldcountymail.com or you call (c) 580-541-6011 or (w) 580-548-2435.

Don't forget, *"The best part of being a public servant is serving the public."*

God Bless, **Wade**

The Ad Valorem Division Director's Notes

We enjoyed meeting with everyone who attended the County Officers and Deputies (CODA) meeting last week. I made it to the Friday morning session. I understand that the break-out session on Thursday went well, but I was not there to defend myself from any jokes at my expense. My friends with the airlines were treating me to some hospitality in Dallas while they took two hours to re-program their on-board computer. Something about safety first.

I really enjoyed attending the IAAO Conference this last week. I always learn something and the quality and depth of IAAO sessions is really impressive. We often find information or programs that we can use in our Annual Conference. As a result of state government budget issues, I paid my own way, but the IAAO Chapter assisted with the conference registration. Thanks very much.

Oklahoma has been doing well with our IAAO participation. Wade Patterson did an excellent session on social networking and is serving on the Communications Committee. Ronnie Funk, Monica Schmidt, David Tinsley, Gary Snyder, and Doug Warr attended. Larry Stein who was Master of Ceremony last year and did a great job was unable to attend because of county budget concerns.

Speaking for those who attended, I thought that we all had a good experience, meeting lots of different assessors and deputies, other state officials in our neighboring states, CAMA/GIS experts, and academic experts who are extremely knowledgeable about the ad valorem system. I particularly enjoyed one conversation I had with the head assessor for the country of Iceland. (Just for the record, his CAMA system does not have a field for air conditioning. Ninety percent of the 300,000 citizens in Iceland have homes powered by thermal heating from underground geological activity.)

We are looking forward to our first hearing or meeting on the Personal Property Schedule. We're hosting a session September 24 on concerns in the schedule on methodology use to gather our information. It should make the process more transparent and open. We expect a good turn out and some useful information.

I appreciate everyone who called in with questions about their public service valuations over the last few months. It helps us when you put it in writing. We also appreciate the help from the company representatives in tracking down answers. There are some areas where we can improve communication between all parties concerned.

We appreciate all the hard work of the county assessors and deputies this year. We all share a responsibility to make the ad valorem system better than it was when it was given to us. Efforts to constantly improve taxpayer service are extremely important, and we appreciate everyone who has made it happen.

Jeff Spelman

*"Though much is taken, much abides; and though
We are not now that strength which in old days
Moved earth and heaven, that which we are, we are;
One equal temper of heroic hearts,
Made weak by time and fate, but strong in will
To strive, to seek, to find, and not to yield."*

Anwar Caddo, Famous Ad Valorem Philosopher. Quote borrowed from Jerry Stone, Oklahoma County Deputy Assessor, who borrowed it from Alfred Lord Tennyson.

Legislative Report

Dear Assessors,

We had some issues during the previous assessment period about when renditions of personal property were in the mail by the due date but note received. Some of us considered those late and others considered them filed timely. We are considering the following language to help clarify what is acceptable.

Title 68 O.S. § 221.1. Date of postmark deemed to be date of delivery or of payment.

- A. For any return, claim, statement, or other document required to be filed or any payment required to be made within a prescribed period or on or before a prescribed date under authority of any provision of a tax law of this state, the date of the postmark stamped on the cover in which the return, claim, statement, or other document or payment is mailed shall be deemed to be the date of delivery or the date of payment, as the case may be and further should the prescribed date fall on a Saturday, Sunday or holiday of the taxing jurisdiction then the prescribed date shall become the following Monday or the first working day after the holiday.

If you have any other legislative thoughts please get them to me as soon as possible.

Have a great October.

Jim

From the Secretary-Treasurer:

I want to thank everyone for paying their County Assessors Association dues. All 77 counties have now paid! Thanks so much.

Don't forget to preregister for the Fall Conference by Oct. 16. Since you have already paid, just fax the form to me 580.327.6230.

Thanks,

IMPORTANT DATES

- Oct. 16, 2009 Pre-register for the Fall Conference
- Oct. 28-30, 2009 Assessors Annual fall conference in OKC at Biltmore
- Nov. 20, 2009 Retirement Party for Debbie Gentry, Woodward County Assessor

FALL CONFERENCE INFORMATION

MEMORIUM

Sonja Booher, Alfalfa County Assessor, has asked for names of former assessors and/or deputies who have passed away this year for the memoriam. She wants them to notify her prior to the fall conference.

WOODSTOCK EVENING EVENT

Woodstock – Forty Years Later

Can you believe it has been 40 years since the moon landing and the summer of love? I know a lot of you were not even born yet, but 1969 was a turning point in the history of the United States. So if you were born after that year, or were just a mere child, get out your parent's photo albums or get on the internet, and research the wild, crazy, hippie attire of the late 1960's. If you actually lived through and remember the 60's, dig out your old tie-dyed shirt and bell bottom jeans and come celebrate Woodstock – Forty years later at our annual conference on Thursday night, October 29 at 7:00 p.m.

There will be prizes for the best old hippies who participate in the costume contest: \$100 for first prize, \$50 for second prize, and \$25 for third prize. The audience will judge the contestants.

We will have sixties music with karaoke. There will be a hospitality room that night for people to prepare to perform their best Janis Joplin, Steppenwolf, or Three Dog Night songs. I know personally that there will be special performances that you will not want to miss.

So find that headband, those platform shoes, and groovy clothes that will win you a prize.

Peace & love,
Kathi (the original old hippie) Mask

HOTEL RESERVATIONS

Just to let everyone know, there is a team roping event at the state fair grounds the same week as the conference. So if you have not yet made your reservations you may want to think about doing so soon. We do have a block of rooms but we are unaware at this time how many of those rooms are left.

FALL CONFERENCE REGISTRATION INFORMATION

The letter and registration form for the Assessors Fall Conference has been included on the next two (2) pages for your convenience. A tentative agenda has also been attached as a separate document to this e-mail. You will need Microsoft Publisher to open.

COUNTY ASSESSORS ASSOCIATION OF OKLAHOMA



Wade Patterson, President
Ronnie Funck, Vice-President
Monica Schmidt, Secretary/Treasurer
Scott Kirby, Reporter

P.O. Box 431
Alva, OK 73717
(580) 327-3118
(580) 327-6230 (fax)
monica@woodscounty.net

September 10, 2009

County Assessors, Deputies and Friends,

The County Assessors' Association of Oklahoma will host its 98th Annual Fall Conference on Wednesday, October 28th through Friday, October 30th, 2009. The conference will be held at the Biltmore Hotel, located at 401 S. Meridian in Oklahoma City. The room rates have been set at \$72.00 per night per room. To make reservations, call the Biltmore at (405) 947-7681 or (800) 522-6620. We have not set aside a "block of rooms" per se, but just let them know that you're attending the Assessors' Association conference and they will set you up at the government rate.

There is **NO** registration fee for this conference for members of our association. It is covered by your annual association dues, associate dues, or annual registration fees, whichever applies to your county or company. However, the Assessors' Association is requesting that all who plan to attend pre-register by the deadline, which is **October 16th**. Attached is a registration form which can be faxed or mailed to Monica Schmidt, Woods County Assessor, 580.327.6230 or P.O. Box 431; Alva, OK 73717. Non-members or guests may attend the 2009 Fall Conference for a \$15 registration fee.

Tentative plans are to have State Auditor and Inspector Steve Burrage, ATAP, CCAP, IAAO, OTC, and the Legislative report on Wednesday. Continuing education credits will be given for attending "Due Process for Appeals" on Thursday morning. Various state-wide political candidates and Chesapeake Energy will be on the program for Thursday afternoon. On Friday morning, we will have discussions regarding Electronic Data Sales and Assessor Involvement. We will then wrap up the conference with our annual business meeting and election of officers.

Our evening entertainment schedule will once again include Bingo on Wednesday and a "Woodstock-40 years later" costume party/karaoke on Thursday evening. Prizes will be awarded for both events, so **each county** is asked to provide **one door prize** to be used for bingo or for giveaways throughout the daily scheduled activities. Plan now to find your best 60's outfit! Following Thursday evening's party, Chisholm's will be open for those wishing to dance one final night before heading home. Also, David Shirley of PvPlus/County Records Inc. will sponsor/host the hospitality room on Wednesday evening while Visual Lease Services will sponsor/host the hospitality suite on Thursday evening.

This year's Fall Conference promises to be both informative and fun, so please fax your registrations soon. See you in Oklahoma City!

Monica Schmidt
Assessors' Association Secretary/Treasurer



2009 Annual Fall Conference

October 28, 29 & 30



Make your reservation(s) at: **The Biltmore Hotel**

401 S. Meridian Ave.

(405) 947-7681

(800) 522-6620

Registration packets can be picked up starting at 10:30 a.m., Wednesday, October 28th. Conference concludes at noon, Friday, October 30th.

PLEASE PRE-REGISTER BY OCTOBER 16TH.

Fax registrations to: **(580)327-6230**

If mailing: **Monica Schmidt, Woods County Assessor**

P.O. Box 431

Alva, OK 73717

Phone: (580)327-3118

email: monica@woodscounty.net

Complete and Return by Fax or Mail

Names of attendees



Please include
conference.

County: _____

the

Officer _____

Deputies _____

Deputies _____

Guest _____ Total # attending _____



<u>Dates</u>	<u>Class</u>	<u>Location</u>
10/15/2009	<i>Excel for Assessors</i>	CLGT Building Stillwater
10/20/2009 - 10/23/2009	<i>Unit 3 (Mass Appraisal)</i>	Hilton Garden Inn Norman
11/04/2009 – 11/06/2009	Advance Income Approach	Hampton Inn Tulsa
11/10/2009	IAAO Residential Construction and Design	TBA
11/17/2009 - 11/20/2009	<i>Unit 4 (Income Approach)</i>	Hilton Garden Inn Norman
11/17/2009 - 11/19/2009	OTC, ARCView Map Training with Troy Frazier	CLGT Building Stillwater
12/01/2009 - 12/04/2009	<u><i>Unit 6 (Cadastral Mapping)</i></u>	<u>Hilton Garden Inn Norman</u>
12/16/2009 - 12/18/2009	Unit 5 (Business Personal Property)	Holiday Inn Ardmore
01/14/2010 - 01/15/2010	Unit 7 (Ag Land Valuation)	Hilton Garden Inn Norman



(Left) "Jeff Spelman demonstrates his bowling skills."
And Kenny (Right)"NASCAR fan Kenny Chuculate
gets serious in the go-cart races." (Pictures from Tulsa)



GPS CLASSES

CLGT/CCAP Stillwater, OK

One Day Classes

5 credit hours

October 21st or 22nd

See the <http://ccap.okstate.edu> website
For enrollment information

The September classes were great fun and informative. Scott, Johnny and I are very enthusiastic about what the GPS units were able to do. Because of that training with Bob Springer of Benchmark, we are looking at how to integrate the GPS units Data Collection abilities into the AA systems GPS option. There are a few spots left for the above dates. Hope to see you there!



OCTOBER BIRTHDAYS

Stan Lyles- 1
Kathy Hokit- 1
Melissa Anderson- 1
Scott Kirby- 4
Erlene Luper- 20
Lavinda Smith- 25
Mandy Snyder- 31

COUNTY TRAINING PROGRAM

Dear County Officials:

This is a reminder that the County Training Program is holding the Duties and Responsibilities Councils, Commissions, Boards and Trusts next Tuesday, Oct. 6, 2009, in Atoka, Okla. We currently have a very low enrollment for this course and would love to have more county officers attend. If you are interested in taking this course please enroll by tomorrow at noon. If we do not receive any more registrations within this time frame, we will cancel the class.

Please feel free to contact the County Training Program office at 405.744.6160 for more information.

Lisa Brown
Oklahoma State University
County Training Program
405-744.6160

Hello everyone.

I have a More Powerful Writing Skills course coming up on October 23 in Stillwater. Enrollment right now is low, and we could use some more students in the class.

This is a great class in which to refresh your knowledge of grammar, learn how to make your writing clearer and stronger, and strengthen your general communication skills. You'll also have a lot of fun doing it...seriously.

If you have any questions about the class, let me know, but I strongly encourage you to sign up and join us. You'll learn lots of great stuff and laugh some too.

Judy Rudin
Local Government (Communications) Specialist
County Training Program
Oklahoma Cooperative Extension Service
Oklahoma State University
405-744-6168

October 21 we have a great program on Economic Development in Weatherford. It will include testimonials on successful development around the state. In addition, several presenters will address issues like broadband (high speed internet) development and agri-tourism. Sign-up soon.
<http://agecon.okstate.edu/ctp/schedule.asp>

October 22 we have a great program on Customer Service in Weatherford. It is valuable stuff for your "front line" employees that deal with the public. Customer Service focuses on making a good impression with polite, professional service for your citizens. Sign-up your employees today!
<http://agecon.okstate.edu/ctp/schedule.asp>



Details coming soon: The Oklahoma IAAO Chapter will be offering a one day workshop titled **Forum 937 — House Construction, Design and Systems (7.5 CE hours)** on Tuesday, November 10th, 2009 in Stillwater, Ok. The location will be the Meridian Technology Center located at 1312 South Sangre Road. We are working to block hotel rooms and arrive at a rate for the course. A brochure detailing the class will also be available on the local chapter's website very soon <http://ok-iaao.oklahomacounty.org/> . The course will also provide 7.5 hours of continuing education credit and there is no test requirement. The instructor will be Rick Stuart, CAE also named 2008 IAAO Instructor of the year. Each attendee will receive an instruction book as well as a student reference manual.

Course description: **Forum 937:** This workshop is designed to provide some background on residential house construction. Topics that will be covered include: location, house types, interior design, architectural styles, construction, environmental hazards, building materials/systems and home improvements/renovations.

Also, don't forget the local chapter's annual "Dutch" luncheon which is held during the Assessor's Fall Conference in OKC on Thursday, Oct. 29th. We'll have a guest speaker and I'm sure we'll have some great insight from the group that just attended the IAAO Nat'l Conference in Louisville, KY. In fact, I think Monica might have a small slide show. So make your lunch plans now and bring a friend or co-worker. We love new faces!

Mike Morrison

Oklahoma County Assessor's Office

Comptroller & Web Designer

(405) 713-7148

<http://www.oklahomacounty.org/assessor>

Email: MicMor@OklahomaCounty.org



Wade Patterson making a presentation at IAAO Conference in Louisville, Kentucky.



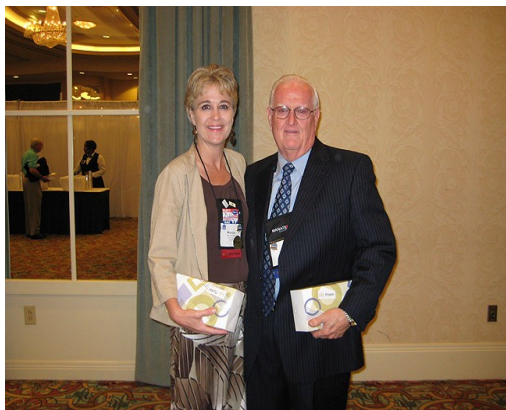
Gary Snyder, Jeff Spelman and Doug Warr have a box lunch during IAAO Conference



(Above picture)
Oklahoma group at
IAAO banquet. In
picture from left to
right, David Tinsley,
Gary Snyder, Ronnie
Funck, Monica
Schmidt, Wade
Patterson, Jeff Spelman
and Doug Warr.



(Left) Opening session
at IAAO conference in
Louisville, Kentucky.



(Bottom left)
Monica with IAAO
President Bill Carroll



(Bottom right)
Jeff, David and Ronnie
at IAAO conference in
Louisville